

REDUCTION OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

Exchange of notes at Caracas January 5 and 12, 1937

Entered into force January 12, 1937; operative January 18, 1937

Department of State files

*The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Minister
of Foreign Affairs*

No. 173

CARACAS, January 5, 1937

EXCELLENCY:

Pursuant to the conversations which I have had the honor of holding with Your Excellency in regard to the desire of the Government of the United States to waive or reduce the fees for passport visas and applications therefor, I now have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have been authorized by the Department of State to conclude, by an exchange of notes, the following reciprocal agreement between my Government and the Government of Venezuela:

The Government of the United States will, effective from January 18, 1937, reduce to \$2.00 (two dollars United States currency) the fee for visaing passports, and will collect no fee for executing applications therefor, in the case of citizens of Venezuela desiring to visit the United States (including the insular possessions) who are not "immigrants" as defined in Section 3 of the Immigration Act of the United States of 1924,¹ as amended by the Act of July 6, 1932.² The classes of citizens defined as "non-immigrants" are as follows:

- (1) A government official, his family, attendants, servants, and employees;
- (2) An alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure;
- (3) An alien in continuous transit through the United States;
- (4) An alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory;

¹ 43 Stat. 153.

² 47 Stat. 607.

(5) A bona-fide alien seaman serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman; and

(6) An alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade between the United States and the foreign state of which he is a national under and in pursuance of the provisions of a treaty of commerce and navigation, and his wife, and his unmarried children under 21 years of age, if accompanying or following to join him.

It is understood that from the same date, in the case of non-immigrant nationals of the United States of like classes desiring to visit Venezuela, the Government of Venezuela will collect no passport visa fee the equivalent of which would exceed the sum of \$2.00 (two dollars United States currency).

It is further understood that such visas granted by either Government shall be valid for twelve months, provided the respective passports continue to be valid for that period, and that no additional visa will need to be obtained during the validity of a visa already issued.

I shall be glad to receive from Your Excellency a confirmation of the above understanding in order that the agreement may enter into effect on the date mentioned.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

HENRY S. VILLARD
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency

Dr. E. GIL BORGES,
*Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Caracas, Venezuela*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

[TRANSLATION]

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS
No. 56

CARACAS, January 12, 1937

MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES:

I have the honor to advise Your Honor of the receipt of your courteous note No. 173, of the 5th instant, relative to the reduction of the consular fees which are at present collected for visaing the passports of non-immigrant Venezuelan citizens who visit the United States and of citizens of the United States, likewise non-immigrants, who visit Venezuela.

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Venezuela accepts the proposal which Your Honor's Government makes in the courteous note

to which I am replying. Therefore, the Consuls of Venezuela will be given appropriate instructions in order to comply with the provisions of the agreement concluded by this exchange of notes.

It is understood that the citizens of the United States who may visit Venezuela, as well as the Venezuelan citizens who may visit the United States, remain subject to the laws which govern the admission of foreigners in the two countries.

I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate to Your Honor the assurances of my high consideration.

E. GIL BORGES

To the Honorable Mr. HENRY S. VILLARD

*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the
United States of America.*

Present.